

STARS AND STRIPES

Saturday, April 19, 2003

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

Iraqis exercise rediscovered freedoms

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER
AND PAMELA SAMPSON

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Saddam Hussein's finance minister was arrested and a top scientist turned himself in, U.S. officials said Saturday, raising hopes of a breakthrough in the search for the toppled regime's wealth as well as any biological and chemical weapons.

In Baghdad, there were signs of progress in a city struggling to emerge from war and lawlessness. Iraqi police worked alongside U.S. troops, and hundreds of demonstrators exercised their new freedom to march, demanding that the foreign troops withdraw. Shiite Muslims prepared for their annual pilgrimage, a practice discouraged under Saddam's Sunni Muslim regime.

Whiskey and beer — banned in public by Saddam — was being sold on the streets of Baghdad for the first time in years.

But in a reminder that small-scale fighting still persists more than a week after the collapse of Saddam's regime, U.S. troops faced small-arms fire at a palace in Saddam's hometown of Tikrit.

No one was hurt or arrested.

U.S. Central Command said Saturday that members of the newly revived Iraqi police force arrested Hikmat Mizban Ibrahim al-Azzawi, who was Saddam's finance chief and a deputy prime minister, in Baghdad on Friday and turned him over to U.S. troops. He is among the 55 ex-Iraqi leaders on the U.S. most-wanted list.



AP

Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division take up position as shots are fired in the direction of their camp in Tikrit, Iraq on Saturday.

A Central Command spokesman, Marine Capt. Stewart Upton, said al-Azzawi's arrest showed that the new Iraqi police force is working well and "going after regime leaders."

Upton suggested that al-Azzawi should know where the regime kept its wealth hidden. "It's money for the people of Iraq, and we seek to have that for the building of the future of Iraq," he said.

Also Friday, Emad Husayn Abdullah al-Ani — depicted as the mastermind of Iraq's nerve agent program — turned himself in to the Americans. Al-Ani may be able to provide information on any chemical or biological weap-

ons in Iraq, or evidence of links between Saddam's regime and the al-Qaida terrorist group.

U.S. officials say he was involved in Iraq's development of the deadly nerve agent VX. He also was accused by U.S. officials in 1998 of involvement with a chemical plant in Sudan linked to al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

The Central Command also said that Khala Khader al-Salahat, a member of the Abu Nidal terrorist organization, had surrendered to Marines in Baghdad. Abu Nidal, who died in Baghdad last year under murky circumstances, led a terror campaign blamed for more than

275 deaths on several continents.

In northern Iraq, where Kurds run an autonomous region, scores of fighters forced to fight for Saddam were freed by their Kurdish captors and began their journey home after as long as three weeks in detention at a prison camp in a tranquil mountain valley.

Minibuses carried 94 Iraqis from the Ashkotwan Prison Camp as the remaining 640 prisoners, all captured around northern Iraq, cheered.

In Kut, hundreds of anti-American protesters chanted: "Go home, U.S.A.," as a U.S. Marine commander,

See FREEDOMS on Page 2

Latest developments

■ Iraqi police arrested Saddam Hussein's former finance minister, Hikmat Mizban Ibrahim al-Azzawi, and turned him over to the Marines. Al-Azzawi had also served as deputy prime minister and was one of the 55 ex-leaders on the U.S. most-wanted list.

■ U.S. Central Command also said Khala Khader al-Salahat, a member of the Abu Nidal terrorist organization, had surrendered to Marines in Baghdad. The organization was a splinter group of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

■ In another breakthrough in the hunt for regime leaders, Emad Husayn Abdullah al-Ani, the man known as the mastermind of Iraq's nerve agent program, turned himself in to coalition forces.

■ Foreign ministers from eight Middle East nations wrapped up a meeting in Saudi Arabia with an appeal to U.S. and British forces to leave Iraq swiftly and also to maintain security while in Iraq.

■ After anti-American protests in Baghdad, Shiite Muslims marched through the streets of the capital in a prelude to their annual pilgrimage to the holy cities of Najaf and Karbala next week.

■ U.S. troops with machine guns and tanks stood watch over bank vaults filled with gold and cash in Baghdad's financial district.

■ U.S. customs inspectors and Border Patrol agents were instructed to watch for and seize any stolen Iraqi art works and antiquities headed for the black market.

■ U.S. field commanders continued to redirect American forces to focus on humanitarian missions and the hunt for weapons of mass destruction and former government officials.

■ American forces struggled to restore power to the 5 million Baghdad residents who have been without electricity for two weeks.

From The Associated Press

News tracker: What's new with old news

Business

Revelations lead to re-vote: A flight attendants' union said it was rescinding its approval of \$10 billion in wage cuts and other concessions to American Airlines over six years, striking a serious blow to a plan that the company said it needed to avoid bankruptcy.

Enraged by the recent revelation that the airline planned to give bonuses to top executives, the union said late Friday that it would schedule a new vote on the concessions.

American chairman and chief executive Donald J. Carty had apologized earlier Friday for not telling unions sooner about the bonuses, which were disclosed after employees voted to accept the concessions. The company also said executives had decided not to accept the bonuses.

States

Deportation for accused Nazi: An immigration judge in Philadelphia ordered the deportation of an elderly man accused of being a Nazi concentration camp guard during World War II.

Prosecutors said Friday that Theodor Szezhinsky, 79, served in a Waffen-SS Death's Head unit during the war and helped guard prisoners at the Gross-Rosen, Sachsenhausen and Warsaw concentration camps from 1943 to 1945.

Szezhinsky, a retired machinist, has denied that he was a guard.

Szezhinsky has lived in the United States since 1950, but a federal judge in Philadelphia revoked his citizenship in 2000 after finding that he had participated in "the Third Reich's closed culture of murder."

Funds for conjoined twins raised: Fund-raisers appear to have surpassed the \$125,000 they'd hoped to raise to offset surgery costs to separate 22-month-old Egyptian twins joined at the crown of their heads.

Sue Blackwood, director of the Dallas-based World Craniofacial Foundation, said about \$83,000 in pledges and donations had been received for twins Mohamed and Ahmed Ibrahim.

The twins were born June 2, 2001, by Caesarean section in a remote Egypt-

tian town. The foundation, a nonprofit foundation founded by Dr. Kenneth Salyer, brought the twins to the United States for evaluation.

Bombing anniversary: Two boys dip their hands in a reflecting pool, then press their palms on a sun-baked bronze gate framing the place where the Oklahoma City federal building was felled by a truck bomb.

A couple standing near the lone tree that survived the blast pauses to stare across the calming acre dotted with evergreens and Oklahoma redwoods.

It's been eight years since the blast killed 168 people and gutted the nine-story building. Worse things have happened since.

But still visitors come to pay their respects. Their minds drift to the thousands of victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the U.S.-led war on terrorism, but mostly, they think of the 149 adults and 19 children who died at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995.

A brief ceremony was held at the memorial Saturday.

Subpoenas in sniper case: Lawyers for sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad have issued subpoenas to police and FBI detectives and to four reporters from The Washington Post, seeking to find the source of law-enforcement leaks to the newspaper.

The Post has broken several stories since sniper suspects Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo were captured in late October. In November, the paper cited anonymous law-enforcement sources saying that Malvo had confessed to several of the Washington-area sniper shootings. Months later, that report was confirmed through court documents.

Peter Greenspun, Muhammad's lawyer, has said the leaks are a deliberate attempt by police to taint the jury pool by giving potential jurors a negative impression of the sniper suspects.

World

Afghan militia leaders meet: Militia leaders from across Afghanistan gathered in the capital Saturday to discuss how to disarm and demobilize thousands of factional militia fighters and replace them with a cohesive national army.

Wearing an array of uniforms or traditional Afghan dress, dozens of commanders checked their assault rifles and hand guns outside the ballroom of the International Relations Ministry as they filed in for the meeting with the country's interim leadership and the commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

The two-day conference is intended to persuade the militia leaders, loyal to warlords who hold near-absolute power in the provinces, to yield their authority to the central government and to support a national army that is slowly taking shape.

New run for French far-right: Far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, whose shock election success last year rattled France and its European neighbors, opened a congress of his National Front party Saturday, eyeing regional polls next year and another presidential run in 2007.

Left-wing groups protested against the congress, the National Front's first since Le Pen's success a year ago when he bumped then-Prime Minister Lionel Jospin out of the race for France's presidency.

Le Pen placed second in the April 21, 2002, first-round vote, sending him into a run-off against President Jacques Chirac.

Stunned voters rallied behind Chirac in the second round, giving him a resounding 82 percent of the vote.

Hostages escape: Two of four women who had been held hostage by Muslim extremists on a southern Philippines island since last year have escaped from their captors, the military said Saturday.

The women, Cleofe Montulo and Emily Mantic, escaped before midnight Friday from the Abu Sayyaf group that held them captive in Patikul town on Jolo island, about 594 miles south of Manila, said Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, deputy chief for operations of the military's Southern Command.

Tolentino said details of their escape were still sketchy, but they had managed to flee their captors, who pursued them, and hitched a ride from a passing vehicle that brought them to Jolo town, capital of Sulu province.

From The Associated Press

Freedoms: Shiites ready for pilgrimage banned by Saddam

Continued from Page 1

Gen. Rich Natonski, met with tribal leaders seeking their support for the interim regional administration he runs.

The protesters support Said Abbas, an anti-American Shiite Muslim cleric who earlier occupied city hall and claimed to control the city.

In the capital, the first convoy of food aid arrived Saturday after traveling from Jordan. The flour and other supplies, carried in 50 trucks organized by the United Nations, will be stored in warehouses until authorities arrange distribution.

Hundreds of Shiite Muslims marched through the streets in a prelude to their annual pilgrimage to the Shiite holy cities of Najaf and Karbala in southern

Iraq. Thousands of Shiites are expected to make the pilgrimage on foot this year.

U.S. troops said fighting in the capital had all but stopped.

Several merchants were selling whiskey by the bottle and beer by the can on the streets. Hundreds of Iraqis swarmed the Palestine Hotel in hopes of obtaining jobs with the transitional government.

Later, about 500 people marched toward the hotel, carrying such signs as "No to occupation."

Iraqi police and U.S. troops staged a joint raid on a streetside market, arresting five Iraqis who were selling Kalashnikov rifles and ammunition.

U.S. troops have been guarding bank vaults in Baghdad that were blasted open by robbers using rocket-propelled grenades. One group of Marines,

equipped with machine guns and tanks, has been standing watch over what they estimated was \$1 billion in gold.

A U.S. patrol came across an estimated \$650 million in U.S. currency, the Los Angeles Times newspaper reported Saturday. The cash, believed to be authentic, was found in a Tigris River neighborhood where senior Baath party and Republican Guard officials lived.

Meanwhile, Iraqi antiquities officials reported that a small number of artifacts looted from the National Museum had been returned.

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, foreign ministers from eight Middle East nations ended an emergency meeting with an appeal to U.S. and British forces to leave Iraq swiftly. The ministers also called on the U.S.-led coalition to maintain security and stability while in Iraq.

Amid a cheering crowd, POWs leave for the U.S.

BY MARNI MCENTEE

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — A small crowd of well-wishers braved biting winds on Ramstein's flight line Saturday to see off seven former prisoners of war returning to the United States.

Waving American flags and a banner that read "Proud of Our Warriors," the crowd cheered when the seven soldiers emerged from a medical bus and climbed on board a waiting C-17 Globemaster. The soldiers had been recuperating at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center for three days after returning from Kuwait.

"We just came out to offer our support," said Heather Pickett, whose husband, Rex, waved a large American flag. "We want to tell them how much we appreciate what they've done for us," said Pickett, a flight doctor with the 86th Medical Group. Her husband is an Air Force civil engineer.

Spc. Shoshana Johnson, 30, was carried onto the plane on a stretcher. Johnson, who was shot in both feet, waved at the crowd and flashed a "V" sign for victory.

Her fellow 507th Maintenance Company members, Spc. Edgar Hernandez, 21, who was shot in the elbow, and Spc. Joseph Hudson, 23, who was shot twice in the ribs and once in the buttocks, according to news reports, both were able to walk to the plane. 507th members Pfc. Patrick Miller, 23, and Sgt. James Riley, 31, also walked onto the plane.

The unit is the same one to which former POW Pfc. Jessica Lynch, 19, belongs. Lynch spent nearly two weeks at

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center before flying to the United States last weekend. The unit members were captured near Nasiriyah on March 23.

Apache pilots Chief Warrant Officer David S. Williams, 30, and Chief Warrant Officer Ronald D. Young Jr., 26, of the 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, waved to the crowd as they walked to the plane.

U.S. troops rescued the captives near Tikrit, Iraq, last Sunday.

The C-17 departed Ramstein just before 3 p.m. Saturday. Before it took off, the

Apache pilots lifted an American flag given to them by a member of the crowd out an open hatch on top of the plane.

Lee Askelson

Vietnam vet

The C-17 would make a stop at Fort Bliss, Texas, to drop off the 507th members at their home station. It then would continue to Fort Hood, home of the 1st Cavalry Division, to drop off the pilots, Ramstein spokesman Maj. Mike Young said.

The soldiers and a team of psychiatrists, doctors and a chaplain were the only passengers on the aircraft, Young said.

Among those seeing off the soldiers was George Ewart, a 67-year-old retired Vietnam veteran wearing a ball cap that read "All Gave Some, Some Gave All."

He and retired Army Col. Lee Askelson, 67, were waiting for a flight at the passenger terminal when an announcement was made that the former POWs would be departing just outside.

"I appreciate what these guys are going through," said Askelson, also a Vietnam vet.

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Civilians to catch medical billing break

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

Civilian "pay patients" soon will not have to front the cost of their medical coverage at military medical clinics throughout Europe.

Starting June 1, the Europe Regional Medical Command will send the medical bills directly to insurance companies instead of patients themselves, taking away a lot of the paperwork and initial charges to the patients.

"It's the right thing to do," said Brig. Gen. Elder Granger, who heads the medical command. Granger said the move will bring the command's three hospitals in Germany, and Army clinics around Europe, more in line with commercial operations in the United States.

It represents the second major change in billing procedures in the past seven months.

Late last year, pay patients in Europe who were used to paying a flat fee per visit for all services and medication needed, instead started receiving itemized bills that caused more than a few cases of sticker shock.

Granger said he received a number of complaints, and he acknowledges a general consensus that medical care is now more expensive for many pay patients.

But he said Congress decided that civilians needed to pay an increased share for their health care. So the military worked with industry professionals in the States to devise a set of fees.

While the care is now more expensive for many, he contends it's not more than patients are paying in the States for similar services.

"You don't want to be way out in left field when it comes to rates," he said, adding most fees are similar to what people could expect to pay on the economy in the countries in which they're living.

Granger said the command is looking to contract with a company to take care of the processing of the paperwork, which is sometimes daunting.

In fact, Granger said he's heard of several cases where people decided just to eat the costs and not submit the paperwork to their insurance companies at all.

Some clinics in Europe, mainly operated by the Air Force and Navy, already are billing insurance companies directly. Sometimes it requires the patient to pay a small fee during the visit and have the rest billed to the insurer.

He said the command can't do anything to change the fees it's charging, but he hopes the new billing system "will help to make this more palatable."

Remains Identified

WASHINGTON — Remains of an Air Force pilot who had been missing since his F-15E fighter jet went down in Iraq on April 7 have been recovered and identified, the Pentagon said Friday.

The search for the plane's weapons system officer is continuing, it said.

The pilot was identified as Capt. Eric B. Das, 30, of Amarillo, Texas. His status

was changed from missing to killed in action.

The Pentagon provided no details on when or how his remains were recovered. It said the whereabouts of the other crew member, whose name has not been released publicly, is still unknown.

It was unclear Friday whether a second set of remains was found at the crash site and had not yet been positively identified.

From The Associated Press

Iraq's neighbors urge quick U.S. withdraw

BY ADNAN MALIK
The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Foreign ministers from six countries that border Iraq condemned U.S. threats against Syria and urged coalition forces to quickly stabilize Iraq and withdraw their troops.

In a statement issued early Saturday, the ministers also agreed the United Nations should play a substantial role in rebuilding Iraq, and recommended U.N. sanctions stay in place until the Iraqis themselves form a new government.

Officials representing Iraq's neighbors — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Syria, Jordan, Turkey and Iran — and Egypt and Bahrain gathered Friday for the emergency summit, their first meeting since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime.

Most Arab countries oppose a U.S. plan to lead an interim administration, with Iraqis initially in advisory roles. The ministers' statement stressed, "the Iraqi people should administer and govern their country by themselves," including making decisions regarding the country's vast oil wealth.

"Iraq is full of skilled people that know their own good better than anyone else," said Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal. "We won't be interfering and we won't accept any other interference in the Iraqis' affairs."

But until a new Iraqi government is established, "the occupying forces must restore law and security," Prince Saud said. The statement called on the coalition to "maintain secu-

rity and stability" in Iraq, and protect the rights of the Iraqi people "and their cultural heritage."

The future of Iraq dominated the discussions, but ministers also addressed the growing enmity between the United States and Syria.

Rejecting U.S. warnings to Syria for allegedly harboring terrorists, including members of the ousted Iraqi regime, and developing chemical weapons, the ministers urged dialogue to promote regional stability.

They also welcomed Secretary of State Colin Powell's announcement that he would visit Damascus soon to discuss Syrian-U.S. relations with President Bashar Assad.

Syria has denied taking in any senior Iraqi officials or possessing any weapons of mass destruction.

The ministers did not set a deadline for when coalition troops should withdraw from Iraq, but they made clear that it should happen quickly.

Prince Saud said the timing depends on how quickly a new Iraqi government is formed. The lifting of U.N. sanctions depends on the new government's ability to meet Iraq's obligations to the Security Council, he added.

Reflecting Turkey's fears about the possibility of a Kurdish breakaway state in northern Iraq that could incite Turkey's own Kurdish population, the ministers' statement expressed a commitment to Iraq's territorial integrity.

Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said Iraq's democratically elected government should represent all ethnic groups.

Cuba sees victory in U.N. vote

BY ANITA SNOW
The Associated Press

HAVANA — Cuba's foreign minister cried victory Friday after the U.N. Human Rights Commission voted against condemning his country's recent crackdown on dissidents, and Fidel Castro's government dismissed the possibility of U.S. punitive steps.

The top United Nations rights watchdog rejected a proposed resolution criticizing Cuba's recent moves against opponents, instead approving a milder resolution Thursday calling for a U.N. rights monitor to visit the island.

Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque called the vote a "resonant victory."

"The unquestionable majority vote is a clear signal from the Human Rights Commission that Cuba has the right to apply its own laws," Perez Roque told a news conference. "We express our profound satisfaction."

Earlier this month, Cuban tribunals sentenced 75 dissidents to prison terms ranging from 6 to 28 years on charges they were mercenaries working with the American government to harm the island's socialist system.

The dissidents and the U.S. government deny the accusations. The crackdown was followed by the April 11 executions of three men convicted of the hijacking nine days earlier of a ferry filled with passengers.

Claire Buchan, a spokeswoman for President Bush, said the repression "only makes our policy goal of encouraging rapid, peaceful transition to democracy more relevant and more urgent and we ... are willing to consider steps to advance that policy goal in this climate."

The steps reportedly could include suspending family remittances and flights.

Singapore PM: 'SARS can kill economy'

BY ALEXA OLESEN
The Associated Press

SINGAPORE — Singapore's leader warned on Saturday that the SARS outbreak could be the worst crisis the country has faced, as Hong Kong reported 12 new deaths — the most in a single day — and China's premier issued a stern warning against covering up the disease.

Elsewhere, Vietnam was considering sealing its border with China, India confirmed its second case, and authorities in Indonesia said a British man with severe acute respiratory syndrome had broken quarantine and fled the country.

"If we fail to contain SARS in Singapore it may well be-

come the worst crisis that our country has faced," Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong told a news conference.

The outbreak has dealt a heavy blow to the nation's economy, with Goh estimating it has cost the city-state \$847 million so far.

"SARS will knock you backward, it may even kill you, but I can tell you SARS can kill the economy and all of us will be killed by the collapsing economy," he said.

Singapore also announced strict new measures to prevent people from flouting home quarantine orders, including fines and prison terms, beginning next week. Officials are already using cameras and electronic wrist

tags to remotely monitor those under quarantine.

Singapore has reported 16 deaths and 172 cases of the pneumonia-like illness. Worldwide, the disease has killed at least 185 people and infected more than 3,000.

In Hong Kong, 31 new patients were reported Saturday, bringing the total number of cases in the territory to 1,358.

Thousands of volunteers, from housewives to government officials, cleaned Hong Kong's housing developments, restaurants and shopping malls Saturday in a massive campaign aimed at slowing the outbreak.

China reported another death on Saturday, bringing its total to 67 deaths from almost 1,500 reported cases..

Bush offers prayers to families of war casualties

BY JENNIFER LOVEN

The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — Celebrating the weekend's Christian and Jewish observances, President Bush offered a message of religious hope and the nation's prayers Saturday to the families of soldiers who have died or been wounded in Iraq or remain deployed overseas.

"This holy season reminds us of the value of freedom, and the power of a love stronger than death," Bush, on a five-day stay at his 1,600-acre ranch, said in his weekly radio address.

Bush declared that the Easter and Passover holidays have "special meaning" this year for service members' families, "who feel so intensely the absence of their loved ones during these days."

Seven American prisoners of war, held in captivity for three weeks, were heading to two Army bases in Texas on Saturday after being rescued by Marines last Sunday and spending several days at a U.S. military hospital in Germany. Two of them, Apache attack helicopter pilots, were returning to central Texas' Fort Hood. Bush planned to attend Easter services Sunday at Fort Hood.

"Thanks to the courage of our Marines and the help of Iraqis, their families have even more reason to celebrate this weekend," Bush said.

Bush had no plans to meet with the two pilots, White House officials said, although they said his schedule might change.

In an unusually short address, Bush also linked the

hope of the two major religious holidays to the war's painful sacrifices.

Although the fighting has all but wound down, and the military's attention has turned mostly to restoring order and rebuilding Iraq, 250,000 U.S. troops remain deployed in the Persian Gulf. That means that people remain separated from loved ones or are grieving the losses of soldiers who have died, Bush said.

"As a nation, we continue to pray for all who serve in our military and those who remain in harm's way," he said. "America mourns those who have been called home, and we pray that their families will find God's comfort and God's grace."

He also suggested, quoting soldiers' loved ones, that faith in God can provide comfort

and a sense of purpose during difficult days.

And when Frank Woods Jr. learned that his best friend, Cpl. Henry Brown, had died in the fighting, he was comforted that his friend had "believed God was working through him," according to Bush.

Bush said God's purposes are not always clear, "yet this season brings a promise: that good can come out of evil, that hope can arise from despair, and that all our grief will someday turn to joy, a joy that can never be taken away."

Bush is spending his third straight Easter with his family at his ranch and returns Monday to Washington. Late next week, as Bush gradually starts increasing his travel after a bit of a wartime lull, the president will hit the road to give an Iraq war update and to pitch his tax-cut plan.

DNA leads to Scott Peterson's arrest

BY BRIAN MELLEY

The Associated Press

MODESTO, Calif. — Authorities said genetic odds "in the billions" proved that two bodies found on the California shore were Laci Peterson and her baby. The announcement came hours after the missing Modesto woman's husband was arrested in their deaths.

Prosecutors said they plan to charge Scott Peterson, 30, with double murder, which would make him eligible for the death penalty.

Officials wouldn't discuss possible motives in the slaying of his pregnant wife, whose body washed ashore earlier this week.

Modesto Police Chief Roy Wasden refused to describe the evidence or say how Laci Peterson died, but he said it appeared she was killed the day before Christmas because no "credible witness" saw or heard from her after that.

On Friday, hours before the genetic test results on the bodies were released, plainclothes agents tracking Scott Peterson's movements with phone taps and vehicle sensors pulled him over as he was driving in the San Diego area, where his parents live, and arrested him.

Attorney General Bill Lockyer said they feared Scott Peterson might try to flee. His dark hair was dyed blond and he had a beard a when he was booked into the Stanislaus County jail Friday night.

His arraignment is expected early next week.

The bodies of 27-year-old Laci Peterson and her infant son, his umbilical cord still attached, washed ashore about three miles from where Scott Peterson said he was fishing the morning his wife disappeared.

Wasden said authorities had no other suspects in her death. That a \$50,000 reward for information leading to her body remained unclaimed "continued to reinforce that one person knew what happened to Laci and where Laci was," he said.

"This is a case where it's a process of elimination," Wasden told CNN Saturday morning. "We never were able to eliminate Scott."

Peterson's attorney, Kirk McAllister, did not immediately return telephone messages for comment.

The bodies were identified through a comparison with DNA samples from Scott Peterson and Laci Peterson's parents.

"There is no question in our minds that the unidentified female is Laci Peterson. The unidentified fetus is the biological child of Laci and Scott Peterson," Lockyer said. "We're scientifically convinced the match is one in billions."

A spokeswoman for Laci Peterson's family said relatives were devastated by the confirmation of the deaths, but grateful they finally had an answer after months of uncertainty.

N. Korea's message

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials are examining broadcasts from North Korea about the status of more than 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods to establish whether the announcement presages production of plutonium-based nuclear weapons.

The English-language announcement broadcast for foreign consumption on Friday said the country was already "successfully reprocessing" the rods, but a subsequent U.S. government translation of the original Korean language version suggested that the country was only at "the point of the reprocessing operation."

The State Department is evaluating the contradictory claims, leaving up in the air for the time being whether U.S., North Korean and Chinese representatives will meet as planned in Beijing to discuss North Korea's nuclear weapons programs.

In another twist, North Korea appeared to offer South Korea an olive branch and proposed high-level talks for later in the month.

From The Associated Press

Robinson sets out on final mission

BY T.A. BADGER
The Associated Press

'Admiral' aims to leave the game a champ

SAN ANTONIO — David Robinson is calling it a career at the end of this NBA season. Ideally, for him and the rest of the San Antonio Spurs, that retirement will come 16 playoff victories from now.

So while Michael Jordan, the year's other superstar retiree, now concentrates on shooting par, Robinson works on shooting free throws and short jumpers. The Spurs are the top seed as the Western Conference post-season begins, which means they are in a good position to pack their 7-foot-1 center off to his rocking chair as a champion.

"For me, it would be a perfect ending," said Robinson, 37, who spent his entire 14-year pro career in the Alamo City. "I couldn't have written the script for my career ending the way it has now, so for me it would just be like gravy on top of everything."

San Antonio opens its first-round, best-of-seven playoff series Saturday against Phoenix.

Coach Gregg Popovich said Robinson's impending departure, announced last summer, has been on the team's mind ever since.

"The whole season has been bittersweet," Popovich said. "We know he's not going to be there in the future, so the playoffs will be bittersweet in that sense, too."

Robinson's farewell season has featured ceremonies in cities around the league to salute the man known as The Admiral and remember his many accomplishments in the NBA — most valuable player, scoring champion, defen-

sive player of the year, all-league 10 times and more.

And on the court, younger players still give him respect.

"He may not be as athletic as he was in his prime, but he knows how to make up for that in other ways," said Seattle forward Rashard Lewis, who watched many classic clashes between Robinson and former Rockets center Hakeem Olajuwon while growing up in Houston. "He's one of the toughest big men to play against. He's so physical with his strength inside."

He still looks every bit the muscle-bulging specimen that he was as a rookie out of the Naval Academy in 1989, and at times this season he's run the floor like he did as a kid. But Robinson's years have caught up to him.

Three times he has been relegated to the injured list, for a total of 18 games, with chronic lower back and knee troubles.

Robinson hurt his back at the end of the 2001-02 regular season, and missed most of the playoffs in which the Spurs were eliminated in the second round by the eventual champion Los Angeles Lakers.

This year, the coaching staff has managed his minutes to make sure he was available for the postseason.

"To me, this is a perfect situation," he said. "I've just enjoyed this whole

year because I've been able to rest when I could and I've been able to come out and help the team when I could."

Statistically, that help has been less than in years past — his per-game averages of 8.5 points, 7.9 rebounds and 26 minutes were all the lowest since he joined the Spurs. Robinson's career averages are 21.1 points and 10.6 rebounds.

But his influence on the team through inspiring words and his upright example remained strong as ever, and that's what he sees as his locker-room legacy.

"In the long run, the only things that really stand out in your life are how you've impacted other people's lives anyway. Nobody cares about your statistics," Robinson said. "I don't care about Oscar Robertson's statistics 30 years ago — nobody cares. But what kind of a man he was and the kind of impact he had on the game, the impact he had on the future — that's what I care about."

Well-known is how he took rookie Tim Duncan under his wing in 1997-98, fully aware and accepting that Duncan would soon replace him as the Spurs' go-to guy. That transition occurred the following year, and the Spurs won the NBA championship.

One of his projects this season has

been teammate Stephen Jackson, a shooting guard drafted out of high school five years ago but who has labored to find steady work in the NBA. Where others sought to settle the streaky, emotional Jackson as a player, Robinson approached the problem from another angle.

"He needed some spiritual guidance — he needed to just understand what his life is about," Robinson said. "It's not about all the stuff that kinda goes along with basketball — going out there and chasing women and chasing money and stuff. ... He's growing tremendously, and he's become a solid contributor to our team on and off the floor."

Jackson, the Spurs' No. 3 scorer at nearly 12 points per game, says Robinson's help has made all the difference in his success.

"David showed me how to put first things first," said the Port Arthur native. "I didn't know how to be a professional in this league, I didn't know how to look at this as a job, I didn't know how to put my family first."

Robinson's family has always been first, and his retirement will give him more time for his wife, Valerie, and three young sons.

He'll also be able to dedicate more of himself to the Carver Academy, a school for disadvantaged kids in San Antonio that he founded and has endowed with more than \$9 million of his own money.

He also talks about becoming a minister.

"There's a lot of opportunity out there for me, but there's also a lot of things I could be doing that would be wasting my time, too," Robinson said. "I think there's a place that God has for me, and I've got to find it."

Q Are Aaron Buerge and Helene Eksterowicz of "The Bachelor" fame still together? — Suzanne Tuell, Oviedo, Fla.

A No. He dumped her over a coffee at a Starbucks in New Jersey. It appears fame has gone to Aaron's head. He boasts of "a lot of romantic offers" and claims one came from Sandra Bullock. (She denies it.) As for Helene, her 2.6-carat engagement ring is stashed in a bank vault, and she's reportedly writing a book about "the reality of reality TV."

Q Elizabeth Taylor said she was going to make her "swan song" at this year's Academy Awards. Why didn't she show up? — Doris Friedman, Harrison, N.Y.

A "I was looking forward to the Oscars but decided at the last moment not to go," the 71-year-old screen legend tells us. "I support our troops in Iraq, and I thought it inappropriate and disrespectful to celebrate while people were being killed."

Q Is there a future for the NBC miniseries Kingpin? — Rachel Harms, Waco, Tex.

Walter Scott's Personality Parade

A On the basis of the ratings and positive critical reception for its six episodes in February, Jeff Zucker, president of NBC Entertainment, says Kingpin is a strong contender for a fall series. He'll make a decision early next month. Co-produced by Aaron Spelling, this saga of a Mexican drug-trafficking family has been compared to HBO's "The Sopranos."

Q With the success of the movie musicals "Moulin Rouge" and "Chicago," will we soon see the long-awaited film version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of the Opera"? — Ken Kennedy, La Grande, Ore.

A Yes. It could be in theaters as early as Thanksgiving 2004. Lloyd Webber, 55, who owns the rights to the show, recently signed Joel Schumacher to direct a film version budgeted for \$60 million. No word on the cast, though we're told Antonio Banderas,

who often had been mentioned for the lead role, is out of the running.

Q Why doesn't Al Pacino marry his longtime love, actress Beverly D'Angelo? — Tom Corallo, Philadelphia, Pa.

A Because their rocky five-year relationship finally fell apart last year. D'Angelo, 48, reportedly accused Pacino, 62, of getting too cozy with his Simone co-star, Winona Ryder, 31. Since January, the pair have been locked in a bitter custody battle over their twins, Anton and Olivia.

Q Whatever happened to Yakov Smirnoff, who made jokes about U.S.-Soviet relations? — Liza Gregg, Tacoma, Wash.

A His comedy career cooled off after the end of the Cold War. "I had a \$2.5 million home with a mortgage in Beverly Hills but no work," says Smirnoff, 52, a U.S. citizen

since 1986. "Then I began performing at my own theater in Branson, Mo., and developed a one-man show, 'As Long as We Both Shall Laugh.'" It's on Broadway through May 26. Incidentally, the Soviet-born comic is a gifted artist whose mural, "America's Heart" is on display at Ground Zero.

Q I heard a four-song sampler from Warner Bros. featuring a new singer named Lizzie West. Can you tell me about her? — Jack Rhodes, New York, N.Y.

A West, 28 — a poet, playwright and actress — didn't start singing until five years ago. "I found my first guitar in a pawn shop, and the songs just came," she tells us. West wrote the lead song for the film "Secretary" and cut the CD "Holy Road: Freedom Songs," just out from Warner. She was chosen as AOL's Breakout Artist and launched a national tour with her band, The Gangs of Kosmos.

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White Sox 3, Indians 3

CHICAGO — Bartolo Colon left his former Cleveland teammates out in the cold.

Colon wasn't sharp on the 42-degree night, allowing nine hits, but he was still good enough to finish as the Chicago White Sox rallied to beat the Indians 5-3 on Friday night.

"The weather doesn't bother me, especially against my ex-teammates. Late in the game, I was just letting it go," Colon said.

Colon (2-0), who spent 5½ years with the Indians before being dealt to Montreal last season and subsequently coming to the White Sox in another trade, struck out three and walked three in Chicago's first complete game of the season.

Colon took the mound in short sleeves for his first start at home for the White Sox.

Colon worked out of a final jam in the eighth, striking out Travis Hafner with runners at first and third.

Colon, a 20-game winner last season with 10 wins in Cleveland and 10 more for the Expos, got a no-decision in his first appearance against the Indians 10 days ago at Jacobs Field.

Magglio Ordonez's hard-hop single off reliever Jose Santiago's glove scored D'Angelo Jimenez with the go-ahead run in the seventh.

Jimenez walked and stole second before moving to third on Jose Valentin's bunt. Billy Traber (0-1) then walked Frank Thomas intentionally to set up a double play before Santiago relieved.

But Santiago couldn't handle the ball Ordonez hit right back at him — it was

American League

ruled a single — and after he did pick it up, he threw wildly past first.

Cleveland starter Ricardo Rodriguez allowed five hits and three runs in six innings, including Carlos Lee's game-tying homer in the sixth.

Red Sox 7, Blue Jays 3

BOSTON — Kevin Millar homered and Boston capitalized on four walks by Jeff Tam (1-0) to score three runs in the seventh inning against Toronto.

Tam's wildness was much worse than that of Boston knuckleballer Tim Wakefield (2-0), who walked three and threw two wild pitches in seven innings.

Doug Mirabelli homered and drove in two runs and Shea Hillenbrand also had two RBIs for Boston, which won its fifth straight game.

Orioles 9, Devil Rays 7

BALTIMORE — Tony Batista's two-run single capped an eight-run second inning that carried Baltimore over Tampa Bay.

Batista later hit a solo homer, finishing with three RBIs as the Orioles won their third straight.

Jason Johnson (2-0) allowed four runs — three earned — on eight hits over six innings. He walked one and struck out four. Jorge Julio got three outs for his fourth save.

Rey Ordonez matched his career high with his third homer for the Devil Rays, who have lost four straight and six of seven.

Yankees 11, Twins 4

MINNEAPOLIS — Roger Clemens won his 296th career game and New York hit four home runs, two of them upper-deck shots by Robin Ventura, to end Minnesota's six-game winning streak.

The Yankees have won 10 straight against the Twins the past two seasons.

Alfonso Soriano set the tone with a leadoff homer off Brad Radke (1-2), his sixth of the season and third in as many games, and Raul Mondesi also went deep for the Yankees — whose 31 homers are second-most in the majors. They've only given up four.

Clemens (3-0) struck out eight and allowed one run in six innings, lowering his ERA to 2.08 and stretching the record of New York's starting pitchers to a franchise-best 11-0. The Yankees are off to their best start at 13-3.

Royals 4, Tigers 3 (11)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Ken Harvey homered leading off the bottom of the 11th inning and Kansas City handed Detroit its 14th loss in 15 games this season.

Harvey connected on an 0-2 pitch from Matt Anderson (0-1) for his second home run of the season, sending a near-sellout crowd home happy.

Raul Ibanez homered to tie it at 3 in the sixth for the surprising Royals, who have won 12 of their first 15 games for the first time in team history.

The attendance of 38,937 was the Royals' largest April non-Opening Day crowd since April 30, 1989, when 40,113 fans saw Kansas City play Milwaukee.

D.J. Carrasco (1-0) pitched two innings for his first major league win.

Athletics 9, Rangers 0

OAKLAND, Calif. — Barry Zito pitched a six-hitter, and Erubiel Durazo hit a two-run double and a homer as Oakland got back to its winning ways at home.

Terrence Long and Ramon Hernandez homered and drove in two runs apiece for the A's, who won seven of their first eight games this season, then lost seven of eight. But in their return to the Coliseum, the A's reverted to top form.

Zito (3-1) retired Texas' first 11 hitters on the way to his fourth career shutout, while Oakland scored five runs in the first against John Thomson (0-2).

Mariners 8, Angels 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Jamie Moyer pitched seven scoreless innings and Bret Boone homered and drove in four runs to lead Seattle over Anaheim.

Moyer (2-1) joined five-time Cy Young winner Randy Johnson as the only pitchers to record at least 100 victories with Seattle.

Moyer did it in his 204th start for the Mariners, seven fewer than the Big Unit needed.

Ramon Ortiz (2-2) allowed six runs and six hits in 7½ innings.

From The Associated Press

Cardinals 6, Diamondbacks 3

ST. LOUIS — Woody Williams keeps putting up zeros.

Williams pitched seven shutout innings to extend his scoreless streak this season to 19⅓ innings as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 6-3 Friday night for their fifth victory in six games.

"Am I going to win every start? No," Williams said. "Am I going to throw shutouts every time? No. It's going to come to an end, but right now it's been a lot of fun."

Edgar Renteria homered and doubled and Tino Martinez had two hits, a walk and an RBI for St. Louis in the first meeting against Arizona since the Cardinals swept the Diamondbacks in the first round of the playoffs.

The Cardinals, batting an NL-leading .309, had five doubles despite missing Albert Pujols, who has a sprained right elbow and could be limited to pinch-hit duties for three weeks. Pujols walked in that role leading off the eighth.

Williams (3-0) didn't allow a baserunner until he hit David Dellucci to start the fifth and didn't allow a hit until Lyle Overbay's broken-bat single to the opposite field with one out in the fifth. He struck out five and walked none and has not allowed a run in three starts this season.

Williams' previous best shutout streak was 19 innings last September.

Williams is 19-5 since the Cardinals acquired him from San Diego in August

National League

2001 and has allowed three or fewer runs in 26 of his past 27 regular-season starts. During that span, he has a 1.86 ERA.

"I think if he ever comes out there in a Cardinal uniform and doesn't have real good stuff and real good location, we're all going to pass out," manager Tony La Russa said. "We're getting so used to him doing exactly that."

The NL West champion Diamondbacks (5-12) avoided their third shutout of the season when Steve Finley hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth.

Braves 5, Phillies 4

ATLANTA — Despite another mediocre outing from Greg Maddux, Atlanta rallied for its fifth straight victory.

Vinny Castilla's two-run double capped a four-run sixth inning for the Braves, who climbed above .500 (9-8) for the first time this season and within a half-game of first-place Montreal in the NL East.

Maddux left trailing 4-1. The four-time Cy Young winner gave up eight hits and three earned runs in 5⅔ innings, though he still managed to lower his ERA from 8.27 to 7.52.

Cubs 7, Pirates 2

PITTSBURGH — Hee Seop Choi's

two-run double helped Chicago open a four-run lead before Kris Benson (2-2) retired a batter, and Matt Clement limited Pittsburgh to two hits over seven innings.

The Cubs failed to score in double digits, as they did in their previous three games, but still won their fourth in a row to maintain their NL Central lead. They can match the club record of 16 April victories set in 1969 by splitting their final 10 games this month.

Given a 4-0 lead before taking the mound, Clement (2-1) made his third successive strong start by striking out 10 and walking three — the eighth time in his career he's struck out 10 or more.

Mets 6, Marlins 3

NEW YORK — Tony Clark's first career pinch-hit homer, a tiebreaking three-run shot in the eighth inning off Vladimir Nunez (0-2), sent New York past Florida.

Mo Vaughn and Mike Piazza also drove in runs for the Mets, who have won three of four following a six-game losing streak. Ty Wigginton tied it at 3 with a two-out RBI single in the seventh.

David Weathers (1-0) worked a scoreless eighth for the victory.

Astros 11, Brewers 5

MILWAUKEE — Morgan Ensberg hom-

ered and capped a six-run fourth inning with a two-run single as Houston beat Milwaukee.

Roy Oswalt (2-1) struggled for the second consecutive start, but notched his first victory since Opening Day. Oswalt allowed four runs and eight hits in five innings and has allowed 14 runs his past two starts.

Jeff Bagwell led off the fourth against Glendon Rusch (1-3) by hitting his seventh homer of the year for a 1-0 lead. By the time the inning was over, the Astros had a 6-0 lead.

Rockies 12, Padres 1

DENVER — Aaron Cook (1-1) came within one out of the 13th complete-game shutout in Coors Field history and had three hits as Colorado beat San Diego.

Cook allowed five hits and only one runner past first base until the ninth inning when the Padres scored on Shane Victorino's sacrifice fly.

Giants 5, Dodgers 1

LOS ANGELES — Marquis Grissom homered against his former team and Jason Schmidt pitched into the eighth inning as San Francisco earned its 14th victory in 16 games this season.

J.T. Snow drove in three runs for the Giants, who improved to 7-0 on the road for the first time in franchise history. They're off to their best 16-game start since the 1918 New York Giants opened 18-1.

From The Associated Press

Bengals uncertain of top pick

CINCINNATI — A week before they make the first selection in the NFL Draft, the Cincinnati Bengals are mulling their options.

The Bengals have held preliminary contract talks this week with agents for cornerback Terence Newman and quarterbacks Carson Palmer and Byron Leftwich.

Coach Marvin Lewis won't discuss the team's timetable for settling on one of the three. Palmer is considered the leading candidate for a team that hasn't had a dependable quarterback since Boomer Esiason.

The Bengals have considered trading down, but haven't found a trading partner, leading them to find out what it will take to sign the top three candidates.

"We're still talking," agent David Ware, who represents Newman, said Friday. "Obviously they have strong interest in Terence, and Terence has a strong interest in the Bengals."

Agents for the quarterbacks didn't return telephone messages.

The team with the No. 1 pick can negotiate with its choice before the draft. The Bengals hope to reach an agreement before noon on Saturday, April 26.

Lewis has spent much of his first three months as head coach rebuilding a defense that slipped drasti-

cally last season, a major factor in the Bengals' 2-14 finish. They lost linebacker Takeo Spikes to Buffalo after the season, but signed free agent cornerback Tory James, linebacker Kevin Hardy, end Carl Powell and tackle John Thornton.

Cornerback has been one of the Bengals' main concerns in recent years. They've taken three cornerbacks in the second round — Artrell Hawkins in 1998, Charles Fisher in 1999 and Mark Roman in 2000. Hawkins has developed into a starter. Fisher tore up his knee and Roman has been moved to safety.

The Bengals still could use a cornerback, leaving Newman in consideration for the No. 1 pick.

From The Associated Press

NFL Draft: Teams taking fewer first round risks

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The first pick in the NFL Draft is likely to be a quarterback, and four or five QBs could go in the first round.

Still, the days when NFL teams gamble on first-round quarterbacks are over, because there are more good ones available and because the risk can be greater than the reward as QBs gobble up salary-cap space.

Thank you, Rick Mirer, Ryan Leaf, Heath Shuler, Dan McGwire, Todd Marinovich, Jim Druckenmiller, David Klingler, Cade McNown, Akili Smith and a host of other first-round flops.

Thank you, Kurt Warner, Tom Brady, Aaron Brooks, Marc Bulger, A.J. Feeley and other lightly regarded prospects who have turned into starters or prospective ones. Even Brett Favre was a second-round pick who was traded by Atlanta to Green Bay before his second pro season.

And thank you, Trent Green, Jay Fiedler and Kelly Holcomb, nobodies coming out of college who have blossomed in their late 20s or early 30s.

There's hardly a team in the NFL that has to draft a quarterback and throw him directly into the starting lineup.

"We're developing more quarterbacks than ever," says Gil Brandt, the longtime personnel director of the Dallas Cowboys and now an NFL Draft consultant.

"That means there are a lot of guys out there with good high school and college experience. They may not have the gun for an arm, but they have the intangibles that make them winners. It gives NFL teams more time to develop them."

This year, there are six QBs rated as first- or second-round choices: Heisman Trophy winner Carson Palmer of Southern California; Byron Leftwich of Marshall; Kyle Boller of California; Rex Grossman of Florida; Chris Simms of Texas; and Dave Ragone of Louisville.

But all have question marks, including Palmer, who is likely to be the first pick — a reluctant choice, perhaps, of the Cincinnati Bengals, who would prefer to trade out of the No. 1 position and take a defensive player.

Palmer and Boller, for example, did little until their senior seasons; Ragone was the opposite — his senior performance was weak.

There are questions about Leftwich's twice-broken leg; Grossman is not a great athlete; and Simms, son of 1987 Super Bowl MVP Phil Simms, played poorly in big games.

So perhaps a lower-round QB — say Brooks Bollinger of Wisconsin — will turn out to be a better pro than some of the high choices.

"If you're looking for a quarterback on the second day of the draft, he's a good prospect," Brandt said of Bollinger. "You look at the successful quarterbacks and they're winners in college. This guy's a winner."

Still, drafting quarterbacks remains a gamble.

In 1993, Drew Bledsoe was the No. 1 overall pick and Mirer was second. Bledsoe made it big, Mirer is a career

"When you pay someone that much, you tend to rush him into a starting position."

Leigh Steinberg
Sports agent

backup who's never approached "the next Joe Montana" tag applied to him a decade ago.

In 1998, the Colts took Peyton Manning No. 1 and Leaf went second to the Chargers. Leaf's name is now synonymous with "bust."

And in 1999, only one of the five QBs taken in the first round, Donovan McNabb of Philadelphia, has become a star. Tim Couch and Daunte Culpepper have had moderate success and could have more. But Smith and McNown already have been written off.

Palmer, Leftwich and Boller all could go in the top 10 next Saturday. But they probably are the only first-round guarantees.

First-round quarterbacks also get a premium salary that sticks with their team for years. Manning's cap figure this season is \$15 million, or more than 20 percent of the Colts' cap, which is why the team has been renegotiating his contract to get more room to sign other players.

"When you pay someone that much, you tend to rush him into a starting position," says agent Leigh Steinberg, who's had his share of first-round quarterback busts, notably Leaf, McGwire, Dave Brown and Jeff George, the No. 1 overall pick in 1990 whose temperament made him no more than a journeyman who squandered considerable talent.

Steinberg also has handled Troy Aikman, Steve Young, Warren Moon, Bledsoe and many other successes.

"What a young quarterback needs is tutelage and coaching, a time to develop a feel for the speed of the defenses and the ability to read them," he said.

One exception was last year's No. 1 overall pick, David Carr, who went to expansion Houston. The Texans had no high expectations, and the four games they won made it a semi-successful season. Carr started 16 games and was sacked a record 76 times.

But he survived, and the future looks bright.

"I wanted to be out there with the guys every snap and I was able to do that," Carr said. "I'm going to be better next year."

Probably — but there are no guarantees.

Scores/standings

American League

	EAST DIVISION			
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	13	3	.813	—
Boston	11	5	.688	2
Baltimore	7	8	.467	5 1/2
Toronto	6	11	.353	7 1/2
Tampa Bay	5	11	.313	8
	CENTRAL DIVISION			
	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	12	3	.800	—
Chicago	10	6	.625	2 1/2
Minnesota	9	7	.563	3 1/2
Cleveland	5	11	.313	7 1/2
Detroit	1	14	.067	11
	WEST DIVISION			
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	10	7	.588	—
Oakland	9	8	.529	1
Anaheim	8	9	.471	2
Texas	7	10	.412	3

Friday's games

Boston 7, Toronto 3
Baltimore 9, Tampa Bay 7
N.Y. Yankees 11, Minnesota 4
Kansas City 4, Detroit 3, 11 innings
Chicago White Sox 5, Cleveland 3
Seattle 8, Anaheim 2
Oakland 9, Texas 0

National League

	EAST DIVISION			
	W	L	Pct	GB
Montreal	9	7	.563	—
Atlanta	9	8	.529	1/2
Philadelphia	9	8	.529	1/2
Florida	8	10	.444	2
New York	7	10	.412	2 1/2
	CENTRAL DIVISION			
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	11	6	.647	—
St. Louis	9	6	.600	1
Houston	9	7	.563	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	8	8	.500	2 1/2
Milwaukee	6	11	.353	5
Cincinnati	5	11	.313	5 1/2
	WEST DIVISION			
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	14	2	.875	—
Colorado	10	7	.588	4 1/2
Los Angeles	7	10	.412	7 1/2
San Diego	7	10	.412	7 1/2
Arizona	5	12	.294	9 1/2

Friday's games

Cincinnati vs. Montreal at San Juan, ppd., rain
Chicago Cubs 7, Pittsburgh 2
N.Y. Mets 6, Florida 3
Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 4
Houston 11, Milwaukee 5
St. Louis 6, Arizona 3

Colorado 12, San Diego 1
San Francisco 5, Los Angeles 1

NHL Playoffs

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Ottawa vs. N.Y. Islanders
Ottawa 4, N.Y. Islanders 1, Ottawa wins series 4-1

New Jersey vs. Boston

New Jersey 3, Boston 0, New Jersey wins series 4-1

Tampa Bay vs. Washington

Sunday, April 20

Tampa Bay at Washington

Philadelphia vs. Toronto

Saturday, April 19

Toronto at Philadelphia

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Dallas vs. Edmonton

Saturday, April 19

Dallas at Edmonton

Detroit vs. Anaheim

Anaheim 3, Detroit 2, OT, Anaheim wins series 4-0

Colorado vs. Minnesota

Saturday, April 19

Vancouver vs. St. Louis

Sunday, April 20

Vancouver at St. Louis

NBA Playoffs

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Detroit vs. Orlando

Sunday, April 20

Orlando at Detroit

New Jersey vs. Milwaukee

Saturday, April 19

Milwaukee at New Jersey

Indiana vs. Boston

Saturday, April 19

Boston at Indiana

Philadelphia vs. New Orleans

Sunday, April 20

New Orleans at Philadelphia

WESTERN CONFERENCE

San Antonio vs. Phoenix

Saturday, April 19

Phoenix at San Antonio

Sacramento vs. Utah

Saturday, April 19

Utah at Sacramento

Dallas vs. Portland

Saturday, April 19

Portland at Dallas

Minnesota vs. L.A. Lakers

Sunday, April 20

L.A. Lakers at Minnesota

From The Associated Press

NHL

Lightning 2, Capitals 1

TAMPA, Fla. — Martin St. Louis' goal and assist Friday night led the Tampa Bay Lightning to their third straight playoff victory over Washington, beating the Capitals 2-1 for a 3-2 lead in their first-round playoff series.

The Lightning, once a doormat franchise making its first postseason appearance in seven years, can win a series for the first time in the team's 11-year history by taking Game 6 Sunday in Washington.

Game 7 would be Tuesday night in Tampa.

Vinny Prospal, assisted by St. Louis, scored in the first period. Nikolai Khabibulin had 22 saves as Tampa Bay became the first home team to win in the series and pushed the Capitals to brink of yet another postseason collapse.

Washington, which won the first two games, has blown a two-game lead in the playoffs three times since 1992.

The Southeast Division champions regrouped to win Games 3 and 4 in Washington, and played so well on the road trip that coach John Tortorella tried to maintain the momentum by keeping the night-before-game road routine.

So, the Lightning stayed at a hotel Thursday night instead of sleeping in their own beds. What effect that had is open to debate; however, Tortorella is not one to tinker when things are going well.

The Capitals were 0-for-3 on the power play in the first two periods, but broke through against Khabibulin when Michael Nylander scored off a pass from Jaromir Jagr to make it 1-1 late in the second period.

Tampa Bay scored its first goal by taking advantage of a four-minute penalty on Kolzig for high-sticking Vincent Lecavalier after the goaltender cleared the puck from behind the net.

The Capitals killed off the first half of the penalty, but the persistent Lightning eventually made the Capitals pay for the mistake. St. Louis fed Prospal, who scored with 6:08 left in the opening period.

Canucks 5, Blues 3

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Todd Bertuzzi and Brendan Morrison each scored their first goal of the playoffs and Vancouver avoided elimination.

Brent Sopel and Markus Naslund also scored as the Canucks' top line finally broke through. The Blues return to St. Louis for Sunday's Game 6 with a 3-2 lead in the first-round series. Game 7 would be Tuesday.

St. Louis' Martin Rucinsky scored with 55.5 seconds left to make things interesting, but Sami Salo restored the two-goal cushion just over seven seconds later with a slap shot from the top of the circle.

From The Associated Press